

THE PROPER NAME FOR THE STRIPED MUISHOND OF SOUTH AFRICA.

In both Trouessart's Catalog* and Sclater's "Mammals of South Africa,"† the striped muishond bears the name *Zorilla striata*. As shown below, the generic name *Zorilla* is untenable, so the next name to be applied to this group must be adopted. This appears to be *Ictonyx* Kaup, 1835, based on "*Der Capische Zorille. Ictonyx capensis*."‡

The specific name *striata* dates from Shaw, 1800,§ but is based on *Viverra putorius* Linn. and therefore refers to a species of *Spilogale*. The striped muishond is figured on the same plate as a variety of *Viverra striata* but is not named. The earliest specific name proposed for the Cape of Good Hope animal seems to be *Mephitis capensis* A. Smith, 1826,|| which species should now be known as *Ictonyx capensis* (A. Smith).—Arthur H. Howell.

THE GENERIC NAME ZORILLA.

The name *Zorilla* was first used in a generic sense by Oken in 1816.¶ In the classified list of names at the beginning of the volume it appears as a subgenus of "*Muffer*" with a reference to page 1,000. The generic name is not used in the text, but from a careful examination of the arrangement of groups it seems clear that *Zorilla* was intended to apply to group "*c. Illist*." [= *Illistinkthiere*], which begins on page 999 and contains three forms. The first of these is named "*Viv. Zorilla*" and should, on account of the tautonomy, be considered the type of the genus. The brief diagnosis** is however insufficient to identify even generically the animal in question. It is referred to the "*Mapurito oder Mafutiliqui*" of the Orinoco [South America] but so far as known, the skunks of that region all belong to the genus *Conepatus*, and are not spotted.

The name *Zorilla* is in use at the present time by most authors for the zorillas of South Africa, but it is clear from the above evidence that it can not be used for that group, but must be rejected on account of its inadequate basis.—Arthur H. Howell.

A BEAR ANIMALCULE RENAMED.

In 1851 Dujardin (Ann. des sci. nat. Ser. III, Vol. V. p. 164) employed the name *Lydella* to designate a very remarkable, microscopic, marine creature apparently related to the bear animalcules. A specific name was not supplied until 1888, when Plate (Zoölog. Jahrbücher. Morphol. Abth. Vol. III, p. 533) called it *Lydella dujardini* in honor of its discoverer. Unfortunately *Lydella* is preoccupied. In 1830 Desvoidy employed it for a

* Catalogus Mammalium, Suppl., p. 191, 1904-1905.

† The Fauna of South Africa, by W. L. Sclater, Mammals, I, p. 113, 1900.

‡ Das Thierreich, I, pp. 352-353, 1835.

§ General Zoology, I, pt. 2, p. 387, 1800.

|| Descriptive Catalog South African Museum, p. 20, 1826. I am indebted to Mr. R. C. Wroughton of the British Museum, for a transcript of Smith's description.

¶ Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte, 3 ter Theil, Zool. 2te Abth., p. XI, 1816.

** "Pelz sanft, ganz gefleckt von weiss und schwarz, Schwarz verhältnissmässig, und schön behaart."

genus of flies, and again in 1835 Macquard used it in the same group. Thus doubly antedated, *Lydella*, as a genus of bear animalcules, must be abandoned. In its place I propose **Microlyda**.

It should be remarked in passing, that the name Tardigrada, so long and so generally employed for the group of which *Microlyda* is a member, is itself antedated. It was first used in the present connection, as a family name, by von Seibold as the Latin equivalent of Doyères' French appellation "les tardigrades," apparently not knowing that it had previously been used by Illiger (1811), Cuvier (1817), Burmeister (1830), and probably others for a group of mammals. In 1861 C. A. S. Schultze called attention to this and offered the family name Arctiscoida as a substitute. The case had been already provided for, however. Xenomorphida, established by Perty (Isis von Oken, p. 1241, 1834), as a family of crustaceans, included all the bear animalcules then known and nothing else. As both Arctiscoida and Xenomorphida were given as family names, other things being equal, they would have precisely the same claims for adoption as class or ordinal names. But since Arctiscoida is clearly antedated, Xenomorphida should be accepted as the name of the group.—*W. P. Hay.*